

START

0038058

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February 6, 1994

Ms. Pam Innis
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
712 Swift Avenue, Suite 5
Richland, WA 99352

RE: Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility

Dear Ms. Innis:

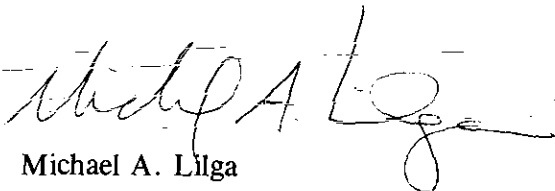
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility. My concerns include the choice of meeting date for the scoping meeting and the location proposed for the ERDF.

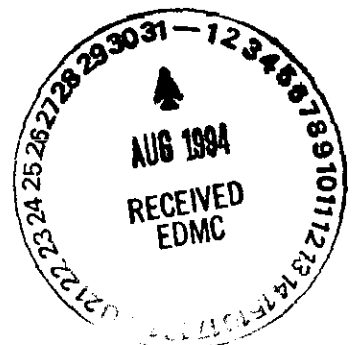
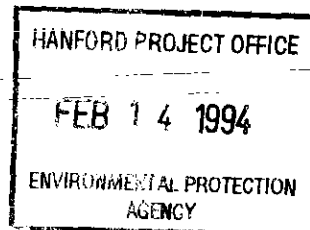
The scoping meeting was held January 25, 1994. A Columbia Point Advisory Committee meeting and Growth Management public hearings were held at the same time. As a result, I was unable to attend the scoping meeting. My concern is that other citizens wishing to participate in deliberations directly influencing their environment were also unable to do so. Environmental interests were under-represented at the scoping meeting. My hope is that more judicious choices for meeting dates will be chosen in the future.

The distributed public notice gave no specific information regarding siting and site characteristics. Has the location been decided on? What other locations were considered and why were they rejected? What will be the impact on wildlife at the chosen location? My understanding is that the area is uncontaminated and contains prime shrub steppe habitat. I also understand that other sites with only surface contamination and lower quality habitat are available. Shrub steppe is disappearing at a rapid rate in this state with only 40% of the original area remaining. A majority of that 40% has been heavily grazed, disturbed by mechanized vehicles and artillery, or lies on slopes too steep with soils too thin to farm. The only remaining quality shrub steppe is found on the Hanford Site. In cleaning up the Site, we must adopt a "do no harm" attitude, seeking ways to minimize impacts on dwindling resources. Whatever site is chosen, initial disturbance should be in the area of least impact on wildlife with incremental expansion as additional space is needed.

I encourage EPA to lead the search for less-impact sites for ERDF. Regulatory streamlining and expedited response should not be allowed to translate to environmental carelessness.

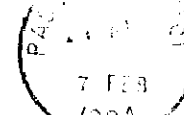
Sincerely,


Michael A. Lilga



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